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VOL. XV, NO. 21

GREENVILLE, KY., THURSDAY, JULY 3, 1913.

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EUROPE'S GOOD ROADS

Regarded as Economic Factor of Life and Not a Fad.

Legacy Left by Romans Has Been Husbanded and Has Added to Prosperity of France—Austria is Close Second.

The wide interest that the road question has for all classes in Europe is remarkable, and it is this unity of purpose that builds on the network legacy left by the Romans. France, Milton writes in the Scientific American. Since that time, and that of the Hens and the Louises, to whom were due much of the elements of beauty that compose the French road system today, particularly with respect to tree planting alongside, and since the later day of the military road making genius of Napoleon much has been undertaken in the way of replacement which has produced, if not an actual money return, at least a prosperity which would otherwise have been unknown.

To be just there are as good roads in the United States today as in France. In top dressing, in equipment with the needs of the new locomotion, according to any one of the four or five methods commonly made use of in America, results are superior even to anything yet achieved in Europe.

Brick is found on some roads of Holland, but it dates from before the motor car era, before even that famous pavement of Terre Haute, Ind., owing already to some twenty years and still good. Great claims of durability are made for brick, and if these claims are made for any weight, the brick would seem to be worth something. In France there is a famous stretch of Route Nationale in the south, near Marseilles. Straight as an arrow, flat as a billiard table and smooth as marble, with a row of windbreak cypress on the right, which in the writer's opinion is the nearly ideal roadway. French national, departmental and communal roads, as a class, are the best in the world.

In the French Alps are the finest mountain roads in Europe, far and away ahead of those of Switzerland on all counts. Many of them were due to the genius of Napoleon and his military road builders, and if their main purpose in times past was strategic, today they are essentially practical.

The mountain roads of Austria are a close second, particularly when it comes to considering them from the point of view of the motor car. Italy has a nationalized roads system, so has Belgium, Austria, and most of the German confederation. The first three meet the situation but partially, organization and control being decidedly inferior to that in France.

MAINTENANCE OF GOOD ROADS

People in Many States Are Filled With Enthusiasm for Improvement of Public Highways.

The present year promises to be the greatest in the history of the movement for the improvement of the public roads of the United States, according to the reports received from all parts of the country by the United States department of agriculture. A joint committee of congress is engaged in an investigation of the practicability of federal aid in the construction, improvement and maintenance of public highways, and a number of the state legislatures are considering good road legislation. In connection with the general impetus that the good road movement has recently had in all parts of the country, the director of the office of public highways says: "Too much stress cannot be laid upon the importance of maintenance in connection with the work of improving the roads. The people in nearly all the states are filled with enthusiasm for road improvement and are spending enormous sums of money in the construction of superb roads, and yet almost without exception they are making little provision to care for the roads after they are built. This is true not only in the various countries, but under many of our state highway departments.

"To maintain the roads in good condition year after year requires a considerable annual outlay, but this outlay is infinitely less than the loss which must fall upon the people eventually if they allow their roads to go to utter ruin. The thing for all advocates of good roads to do is to urge continuous, systematic maintenance, and the setting aside every year of an amount per mile estimated by the engineer in charge to be sufficient for the proper maintenance of the road—a course which must make for economy and efficiency."

POULTRY FACTS



WYANDOTTE IN FAVOR

Excels in Ability to Be Pushed for Rapid Growth.

Breed Ranks About With Plymouth Rocks as Layers, but is More Active and Has Less Tendency to Overfatness.

(By R. G. WEATHERSTONE.)
The Wyandotte is smaller than the Plymouth Rock, but an equally rapid grower. It is generally claimed that the White Wyandotte will stand pushing for rapid growth the best of any breed.

As layers the Wyandottes seem to rank about with the Plymouth Rocks, but being somewhat more active and



Excellent Farm Type.

having less tendency to overfatness they should be credited with a slight advantage.

The Rhode Island Red breed constitutes the latest addition to the list of popular American breeds of chickens. This variety differs from the majority of breeds in claiming for themselves an origin based solely on practical considerations.

They are partly of Asiatic blood, but in their selection, which extends over a period of fifty years, attention has been paid to rapid growth and egg production, so that the breed today more nearly resembles the Leghorns than does either the Plymouth Rock or Wyandotte.

One fundamental difference still exists that shows the Asiatic origin of the red chicken, they being persistent sitters.

The Rhode Island Reds do not reproduce themselves with certainty as to shade of color or style of comb, but in practical points they may be considered a distinct and well-established breed.

In the eastern part of the United States are many farms keeping from one to several thousand hens and devoted exclusively to the production of poultry and eggs for the market. The use of any breed on such farms should be good witness of its utility. The tabulation of the breeds used on such plants as are shown to the writer gives the following results:

White Wyandottes occupy first place, being used on about twice as many plants as any other one breed. Single-comb White Leghorns, Barred Plymouth Rocks and White Plymouth Rocks follow next in order. Rhode Island Reds, Light Brahmas, Buff Wyandottes, Buff Plymouth Rocks, Brown Leghorns and Black Minorcas are the other breeds in use. Leghorns, Minorcas and Rhode Island Reds are used on the egg farms, Light Brahmas and Plymouth Rocks on the roaster and capon plants, while the hroller and combination plants use Plymouth Rocks, Wyandottes or Rhode Island Reds.

Cause of Gapes.

Gapes are caused by a worm-like parasite that becomes attached to the lining of the windpipe. Wet and filthy grounds are a prolific cause. Isolate the infected birds and speed up the yard with slacked lime once a week. Remove the parasites from the windpipe with a feather dipped in turpentine. Put a little turpentine or camphor in the drinking water.

Limit on Eggs.

One good mother hen can brood twenty chicks and even more with ease, while she cannot successfully cover more than thirteen. This is well to set two hens at the same time and give one the chicks from the two hatchings. The other hen can then cover thirteen eggs again and raise her own little family when these are hatched.

Grit in the Ration.

A hen cannot digest her food properly without plenty of grit in her digestive apparatus. Keep a good supply of it always on hand so she can have free access to it, for, no grit, no digestion; no digestion, no eggs; no eggs, no dividends from the direction of the henhouse.

DAIRY



EXPENSE OF PRODUCING MILK

Interesting Investigation Made by Dairy Department of Ohio College of Agriculture.

The people of cities who complain about the high price of milk may be interested in knowing what it costs to produce and distribute good marketable milk. An investigation made last year by the dairy department of the college of agriculture, Ohio State university, shows that the average cost of producing a gallon of milk in Ohio is about 25 cents, or 6.25 cents per quart, allowing 3,200 pounds per cow per year as the average milk production.

This takes into consideration the cost of feeds, labor, interest on investment, maintenance, insurance,



High-Producing Holstein.

taxes, etc. When the average milk production per cow is increased the cost of milk is decreased. The average cost of distribution is 3 1/2 cents per quart, making a total of 9.75 cents per quart as the cost of producing milk and delivering it to the consumer. This means that when the milk retails at ten cents a quart, the average producer and distributor is making little or no profit in the transaction.

Where the high-producing cows are kept, and economic methods of handling and distributing by a large scale are employed, the above figures are greatly reduced, and there is a fair profit in the dairy business. However, it is the average producer, who keeps average cows, and the greater demand for sanitary conditions that are contributing to the high price of milk.

NEED FOR GOOD VENTILATION

Dairy Cow is Often Required to Work Under Unfavorable Influences—Make Plans Now.

Farmers who are going to build barns next summer should make arrangements now to put in the kind system of ventilation in their stables. It is not expensive if you make calculations in time.

The Washington Agricultural college has the following to say on the necessity of ventilation:

"Dairy barns are very frequently poorly ventilated. The dairy cow is then not only required to live, but to work under unfavorable influences, and she often falls a victim to such diseases as tuberculosis, pneumonia, bronchitis and colds. Poor air is one of the prime factors in the production of such diseases. Since the advent of sanitary science in connection with ventilation, the air space allowed for each animal has been increased, and a number of methods of ventilation have been devised. The exercise of a little care in such matters will protect the health of the animal, prevent premature death and also make possible the highest working efficiency of the herd."

DAIRY RATION WITH SPELTZ

Experiments Show it to Be Worth About 13 Per Cent. Less Than Corn for Milking.

A ration consisting of 30 to 35 pounds of silage, 5 pounds of alfalfa hay, corn stover ad libitum, and corn bran and speltz, will give very satisfactory results as a feed for dairy cattle.

We can say, however, that if the speltz is worth as much as corn we would not advise using it, says an exchange. Experiments indicate that speltz, more properly termed Emmer, is worth about 13 per cent. less than corn for milk-making purposes.

A mixture consisting of 400 pounds corn chop, 200 pounds bran, 400 pounds speltz, will supplement the roughage suggested very nicely. One pound for each 3 1/2 pounds of milk should give the cows ample nourishment for doing reasonably good work. If speltz is omitted from the mixture, a combination of 500 pounds of corn chop and 300 pounds bran will make a very good combination.

Harmful Milk Can.

A rusty milk can causes trouble any time of year. Bad germs will propagate in the crevices and the milk will lack of fresh, sweet flavor. Throw away every rusty can and get good new ones.

Orchard Information

STRENGTHEN A WEAK CROTCH

Defective Places May Be Braced by Running Iron Rod Through Two Limbs of Tree.

(By W. W. ROBBINS, Colorado Agricultural College.)

Many trees have weak limbs and develop bad crotches. In some cases these result from injudicious pruning, while often they are the expression of the natural habit of the variety. A familiar sight on our streets is the leaning of the large crotches of cottonwoods. There is a strain of the point where the two large limbs meet, hence a partial splitting, making an opening from which the sap exudes. This leakage is unsightly; furthermore, weak crotches of trees are dangerous to life and property.

In most cases weak crotches may be easily braced.

An excellent method of strengthening a weak crotch is to run an iron rod through the two limbs which form the undesirable crotch. A hole is bored through the two limbs a short distance above the crotch. The hole should be made to fit the rod as nearly as possible; this hole will not injure the tree. The rod should have a large head at one end and be threaded for a large nut at the other. The rod is inserted and the nut screwed up tightly. A one-inch rod will support a tremendous strain, but the size will depend, of course, upon the size of the limbs to be braced.

DYNAMITE FOR TREE HOLES

Found to Be Satisfactory Method in Replanting an Old Orchard—Use Care With Caps.

(By W. A. IRVIN.)

I have used dynamite for digging holes for trees, and am well along it with satisfactory results. It is a good plan to use in replanting an old orchard. In my fifteen-year-old orchard there were rocky spots where the subsoil plow failed to penetrate, when the orchard was first planted, and two or three replantings since, where the holes were dug with pick and shovel, have not been successful. Dynamite did the work all right.

There is little danger in handling the dynamite, but great care must be used in handling the caps which explode it. I use half a stick of dynamite for opening a hole in which a tree is to be set, and a whole stick is used to blow out an old tree. My men cut the fuse the length wanted. Insert one end of the fuse in the cap, and bore or gouge a hole in the dynamite, in which the cap is inserted; the dynamite is then tied fast in the hole. A crowbar is used to punch a hole in the soil to depth of about two feet.

INSECT DAMAGES AN ORCHARD

Snowy-Tree Cricket Is Most Severe Upon Raspberry Canes—Also Works on Grape Vines.

The damage done by this insect is most severe upon raspberry canes, but it also works on the grape vines. It injures the cane by cutting a slit in which the eggs are deposited. When the young crickets hatch they feed upon the sap of the cane and in a short time the branch or stalk containing the insects is rendered useless and dies.

Snowy-Tree Cricket.

which the eggs are deposited. When the young crickets hatch they feed upon the sap of the cane and in a short time the branch or stalk containing the insects is rendered useless and dies.

PROPER CULTURE OF GRAPES

Spring-Planted Vines Should Not Be Allowed to Produce Fruit—Keep Out Weeds and Grass.

Spring-planted vines should not be allowed to produce any fruit, as it weakens the roots. A two-year-old vine, if of vigorous growth, may be permitted to bear two or three bunches.

Upon the first appearance of mildew (whitish spots upon the leaves) dust with sulphur. Keep the vines tied up. Pinch off bearing shoots at the third leaf from the last cluster and pinch laterals to one leaf. Cultivate the ground between the rows, the ground should be kept mellow and free of grass and weeds.

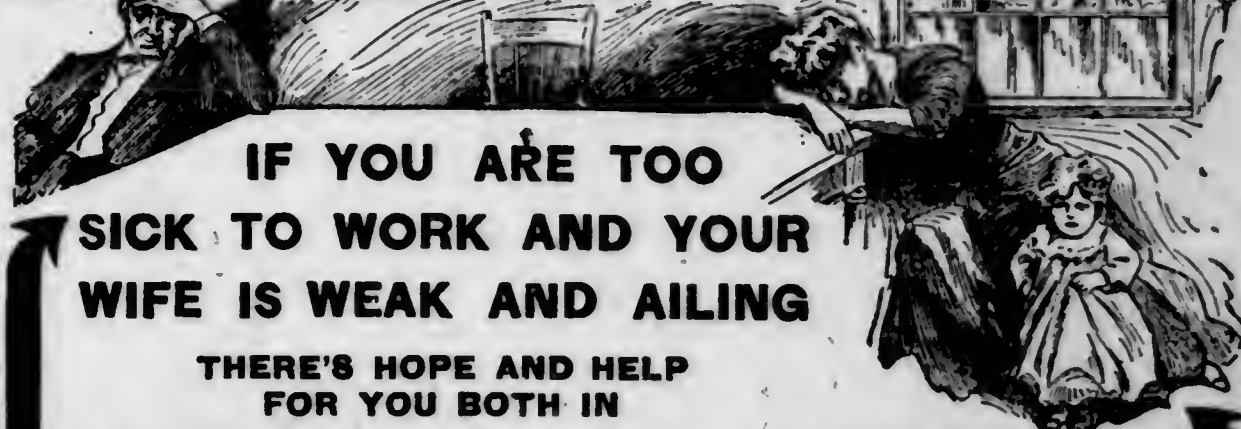
Spread a two-inch layer of coal ashes under the trellis. This mulch will keep the soil cool and moist, the grapes will be free from dirt and the fruit will ripen up nicely. Tie paper sacks over each bunch of the choice varieties. This is a good practice for the family use, as the grapes are much sweeter.

Hogs Destroy Blackberries. A fruit farmer says that blackberry vines can be destroyed by making a hog pasture of the patch. The hogs will soon get rid of them; they will root out the roots and this is an easy way to get rid of an abandoned patch.

Small Fruits Neglected.

There are thousands of localities in this country where no one is paying any attention to small fruit growing and where strawberries, grapes, currants and such fruits might be grown with profit.

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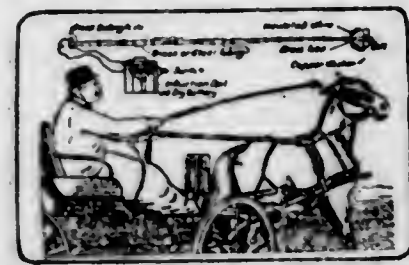
HORSES PIGS and CATTLE

FOR STARTING BALKY HORSE

Common Bamboo Fish Pole With Electrical Contrivance to Give Shock Is Quite Effective.

Take a common bamboo fish pole and cut it into lengths of about five feet, writes Edw. E. Herbert in the Popular Electricity. With a three-foot bell hanger's bit bore a hole through the center of the pole. Join the sections with brass or steel tubing. Insert two insulated wires through the pole, terminating at the larger end in two small binding posts. On the other end of the pole place a brass or copper tube that will fit snugly, and flatten it out slightly. Bore a hole through the middle of this and bolt a wooden piece about three inches long across the tube.

At the outer ends of the small cross piece fasten two brass or copper washers about an inch in diameter and attach the two insulated wires



Electrical Starter.

running through the pole, one to each. If a metal cross piece is used, one terminal should be insulated by a rubber or fiber washer. By means of a flexible wire attach the secondary of an ordinary shocking coil to the terminals at the rear end of the pole. The coil and dry batteries of two or three cells can be carried in a small box on the wagon. When the horse is balky all you have to do is to turn on the battery, place the two terminals at the outer end of the pole back of the ears of the animal and it will go at once. This apparatus has been tried out by the writer on some of the worst balky horses and has never failed yet.

EXPENSE OF HANDLING EWES

Every Farmer Should Figure Out Cost of Feed—Pays Better to Wean Lambs Before July 1.

Prof. E. W. Sheets of the West Virginia experiment station, in discussing the question of breeding ewes, said that he believed every flock owner should sit down and figure out the cost of the feed.

In the fall he feeds breeding ewes once a day on oats and bran; feeds no corn whatever to the breeding ewes. Uses clover, cowpeas and mixed hay and corn fodder for roughage. The latter it pays to shred or cut. His Southdown sheep eat about six pounds of silage apiece a day, two pounds of hay and one-half pound of grain, but he does not give the ewes so much silage as this before lambing.

He feeds the lambs with the ewes starting with about half a pint of grain to the lamb at eight weeks old, and getting up to a pint of grain at about twelve weeks old. This feed is continued throughout the season. After the lambs are weaned he puts the ewes on a stubble field to decrease the flow of the milk. He gives tobacco, which he raises himself, in the feed each day as a preventive of stomach worms.

He thinks it pays better to wean lambs the 1st of July than at any other time. It costs him \$2.06 to keep a sheep a year, but he did not charge present market prices for his feed, adopting a scale of prices that would run about the average for a series of years.

LIVE STOCK NOTES

Individual farrowing pens are money-savers.

The early pigs will need much more attention than the late ones.

Drain the hoghouse floors. A little slip may lame a hog for all time.

Feedings from scabby potatoes should be boiled before being given to pigs.

A pig in hand is worth two in the scrap pile. Try and save the little fellows.

When bad quarters are given the hogs they can't be expected to return good dollars.

See that the barn rooms are in good shape for the ewes that are to bear early lambs.

Sheep unless he is willing to sit up nights in all kinds of weather during the lambing season.

A blanket of fat on a horse, like clarity, is a mantle that often serves to cover a multitude of defects.

To sure the flock has plenty of fresh water. If the sheep drink from stales keep the approaches dry.

Avoid the elephantine hog or steer—they are breaks that cannot be relied upon to give carcasses of great value.

WATER REQUIRED FOR SHEEP

Animals With Bountiful Supply Produce More Mutton Than Those That Are Deprived of It.

Experiments carried on with cattle showed that cattle given plenty of water with their pasture contained more moisture and less dry matter than did the carcasses of cattle given pasture but no additional moisture. It is a generally accepted principle of feeding that it costs more and more to produce meat as the moisture decreases and the dry matter increases. From this we are able to deduce the fact that it costs less to grow the steers that had plenty of water, and so made watery carcasses, than it did to grow the steers that had no water other than that in their food and reproduced a dry carcass.

What is true in the case of steers would hold equally true in the case of sheep. Sheep given plenty of water will produce mutton more cheaply than will those deprived of it. Muscular expansion will be more active in the one case than in the other, and that is another reason why mutton production would be cheaper.

There is considerable water in any of the pasture crops that sheep eat, and they get still more moisture from the dew that collects on the grass blades in early morning and late evening; but from these two sources, while it gets enough water to keep it alive, a sheep still does not get enough water to keep it in the very best growing condition nor to keep all its bodily processes going on in the most effective manner possible.

There is not an organ in the body that can function properly without water to aid it. Being one of the chief constituents of blood, water is carried to every part of the system, and not alone helps it in getting its nourishment, but also in ridding it of its impurities. It is obvious that a large amount of water must be necessary to keep the sheep doing well. Enough is not gotten with the food, even in summer, and this amount should be supplemented by all that the sheep will drink when given constant access to it.

CULL OUT UNDESIRABLE HENS

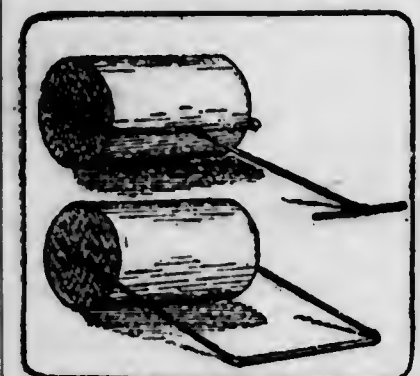
All Fowls That Have Passed Their Term of Usefulness Should Be Marketed at Once.

It is always reasonable to cull out the undesirable birds from a flock, says the Poultry Journal. All hens that have passed their term of usefulness should be marketed. While culling should be continued throughout the entire year, the most heroic work should be done in the fall. What we call yearlings in poultry are those which were hatched the year before the pullets. They are nearer two years old than one, and make excellent breeders. After breeding pick out of this flock such as are considered unprofitable. What we call the two-year-olds are the ones that are going into their second molt. Very often some excellent layers are found among these, and it pays to keep such, but at that age the closer we cull the better will be our profits. This culling, however, can only be successful by close watching. No matter how valuable a hen may be, if she proves to be a feather puller or an egg eater, she, too, should be sent with the lot of culls to market.

HOMEMADE LAWN ROLLER

Practical and Substantial Implement Will Keep Grass in Fine Shape and Discourage Moles.

Frequent rolling with a heavy roller keeps the lawn in fine shape and helps to discourage moles from working in it, says the Farm and Home. A practical and substantial roller for this purpose may be made of cement with gaspipe axle and handle. It should weigh about 200 pounds and should



Home-Made Lawn Roller.

be about two feet long. A piece of 15-inch salt-glazed sewer tile makes a good form. Forms can also be made of wood from narrow slats or galvanized iron. In the latter case the form may be left on the roller.

Do Not Feed Moldy Corn. Moldy corn will produce blind staggers in horses, and it should never be fed to them. Every year there is considerable trouble with this disease in the west, and in almost every case the cause is moldy corn. If this corn does not produce blind staggers, it will tend to injure the physical condition of the animal. So don't feed it, and be careful about pasturing the horses in stalk fields where there is moldy corn.

Using More Brains. In live stock and dairying, brains are more used today than brawn.

Corn Alone Unprofitable. Hogs cannot be raised profitably on corn alone.

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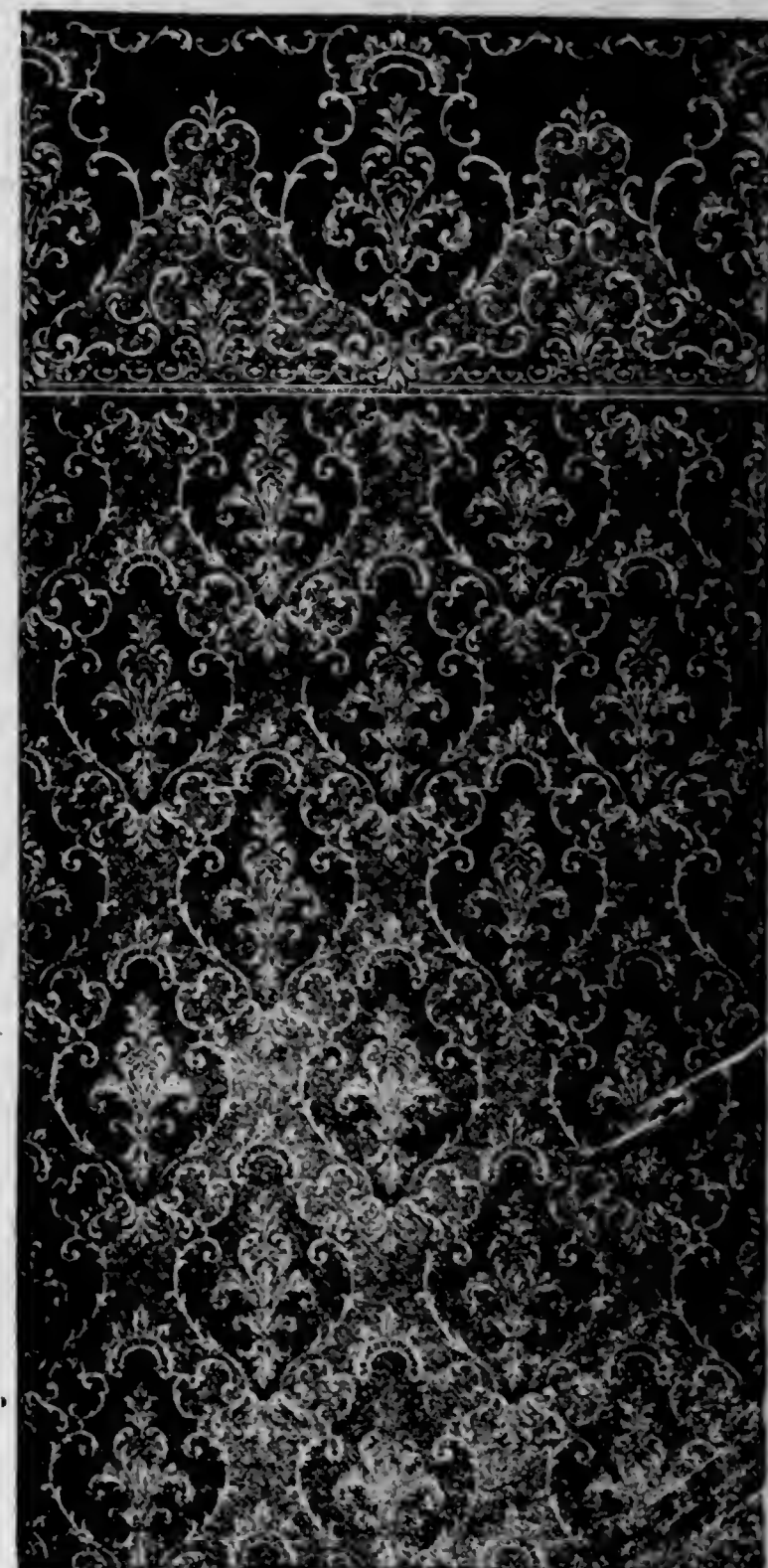
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